



July 11, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Liberal Party of Canada
350 Albert Street, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

Dear Prime Minister,

As Canadians look to a federal election this fall, Premiers urge federal party leaders to reflect on the value and importance of federal-provincial-territorial relations in our country.

Canada works best when the constitutional division of powers is respected; when differences and diversity among jurisdictions are accepted; and when provinces and territories and the federal government work together to face common challenges, as equal but distinct orders of government. With the upcoming election, there is an opportunity for First Ministers to reaffirm their commitment to Canadian federalism. We invite the federal government to work with us to strengthen intergovernmental relations and institutions in a spirit of collaboration that is respectful, meaningful and advances the interests of Canadians in all regions of the country.

Premiers invite the Prime Minister to co-host a meeting of First Ministers following the federal election, to discuss the top priorities of Canadians, including economic competitiveness, jobs and skills training, immigration, healthcare, climate change and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. These priorities are top of mind for Premiers, and were discussed in detail during our annual summer meeting, held this week in Saskatoon.

As Canadians elect a federal government this fall, their choice should be informed by clear and transparent information on where each federal party and its leader stands on these topics. We ask you to reflect on these priority areas, and respond to the questions provided below:

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Canadians expect their leaders to take policy decisions that support the Canadian economy, bolster economic growth, engage Indigenous communities and leaders, and enhance productivity and innovation. It is imperative for all governments in Canada to balance responsible resource development and environmental protection, and ensure timely, efficient, transparent and predictable processes for decisions on major resource projects. To enhance investor certainty, Canada must be positioned as a predictable, innovative, responsible and productive place to do business. Investments in strategic economic infrastructure – including transportation, communications and energy infrastructure – are critical to building stronger communities and a stronger economy. Canadians look to the federal government to oppose protectionist policies and unfair trade actions against Canadian industries, and enhance international trade and commerce through the diversification of trade relationships, which requires the active engagement of provinces and territories.

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Immigration

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Climate Change

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Scott Moe
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The Honourable Andrew Scheer, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
Conservative Party of Canada
1720-130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4

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Scott Moe
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Saskatchewan

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July 11, 2019

Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P.
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
300 - 279 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J9

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Mr. Yves-François Blanchet
Leader of the Bloc Québécois
3750 Crémazie Boulevard East, Suite 402
Montréal, QC H2A 1B6

Dear Mr. Blanchet,

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Question 5: What is your climate change plan? Will you respect and support provincial and territorial climate policies that reflect the distinct needs and priorities of each jurisdiction? Will you support emission credit trading across international borders and work with provinces and territories on a strategic approach to finalizing the rules under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement? Will you work with provinces and territories to ensure funding related to natural disaster and climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience is adequate, flexible, timely and streamlined? Will you restore the lower pre-2015 threshold for accessing Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements funding?

Strengthening Canada's Position in the Arctic

The climatic, economic and geopolitical context of the Arctic is shifting. Internationally, the Arctic is seen as a place of investment and opportunity and there has been significant new interest exerted, including related to the Northwest Passage.

Question 6: How will you work with provinces and territories to ensure Canada's position in the Arctic is strengthened, particularly given international geo-political shifts? How will you empower and work with Indigenous peoples, communities, and governments in the region? What kind of approach will you take to invest in Canada's Arctic and the populations that live there?

Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Canadians expect their leaders to establish and maintain respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples in the spirit of reconciliation. As has been noted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, reconciliation also requires concrete action: "political will, joint

leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.” Premiers acknowledge the important work undertaken through the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Provinces, territories, the federal government, Indigenous partners and all Canadians are called to action to address its findings and end the violence.

Question 7: How will you work to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples? How will you work to respect the diversity of Indigenous populations across the country, and provincial and territorial roles and perspectives? What is your plan and funding commitment to measurably improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities? How will you address the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and support implementation of the Calls to Justice?

Canadian Federalism

There is an opportunity to reaffirm the partnership between Canada’s two orders of government to cooperatively address these issues, in order to improve Canada’s economy, face common challenges and more effectively deliver services to Canadians. We suggest that a meeting of First Ministers be convened to discuss these important priorities before the end of the calendar year, and that such meetings be scheduled on a regular basis going forward. In order to ensure the best outcomes for Canadians, we propose that our work together be guided by a series of intergovernmental principles, including:

- respecting the division of powers between equal orders of government in the federation;
- recognizing provincial and territorial diversity in policy and priorities;
- aligning fiscal resources with jurisdictional responsibilities; and,
- accepting that each government is accountable to its own citizens.

Question 8: Will you commit to co-hosting regular meetings of First Ministers, beginning with an initial meeting before the end of 2019, with agendas and communiqués co-developed by consensus amongst all First Ministers? Will you adopt the principles outlined above? Do you believe the current system of federal transfers adequately addresses economic downturns when they occur in specific provinces and territories and if not, what changes would you make?

We look forward to your response, and to working together in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,



Scott Moe
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Saskatchewan

c. All Premiers



July 11, 2019

Ms. Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
PO Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R1

Dear Ms. May,

As Canadians look to a federal election this fall, Premiers urge federal party leaders to reflect on the value and importance of federal-provincial-territorial relations in our country.

Canada works best when the constitutional division of powers is respected; when differences and diversity among jurisdictions are accepted; and when provinces and territories and the federal government work together to face common challenges, as equal but distinct orders of government. With the upcoming election, there is an opportunity for First Ministers to reaffirm their commitment to Canadian federalism. We invite the federal government to work with us to strengthen intergovernmental relations and institutions in a spirit of collaboration that is respectful, meaningful and advances the interests of Canadians in all regions of the country.

Premiers invite the Prime Minister to co-host a meeting of First Ministers following the federal election, to discuss the top priorities of Canadians, including economic competitiveness, jobs and skills training, immigration, healthcare, climate change and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. These priorities are top of mind for Premiers, and were discussed in detail during our annual summer meeting, held this week in Saskatoon.

As Canadians elect a federal government this fall, their choice should be informed by clear and transparent information on where each federal party and its leader stands on these topics. We ask you to reflect on these priority areas, and respond to the questions provided below:

Economic Competitiveness

Canadians expect their leaders to take policy decisions that support the Canadian economy, bolster economic growth, engage Indigenous communities and leaders, and enhance productivity and innovation. It is imperative for all governments in Canada to balance responsible resource development and environmental protection, and ensure timely, efficient, transparent and predictable processes for decisions on major resource projects. To enhance investor certainty, Canada must be positioned as a predictable, innovative, responsible and productive place to do business. Investments in strategic economic infrastructure – including transportation, communications and energy infrastructure – are critical to building stronger communities and a stronger economy. Canadians look to the federal government to oppose protectionist policies and unfair trade actions against Canadian industries, and enhance international trade and commerce through the diversification of trade relationships, which requires the active engagement of provinces and territories.

Question 1: What measures will you take to enhance Canada's economic competitiveness? How will you integrate Indigenous perspectives into that dialogue? What regulatory approach will you take to enhance investor certainty while ensuring environmental protection? How will you ensure strategic economic infrastructure is adequately funded and supported? Will you streamline the process for provinces and territories to access federal infrastructure funding? Will you commit to reducing federal exceptions to the Canada Free Trade Agreement? Will you commit to undertaking a targeted effort to reduce unnecessary federal regulatory red tape? Will you give provinces and territories a seat at the table in international trade negotiations? How will you support provinces and territories, businesses, workers, and communities when major economic partners such as China and the United States impose unfair restrictions to trade on Canadian exports? How will you work to ensure Canadian companies are exempt from Buy America requirements? What will you do to enhance international trade opportunities and increase Canadian exports? What steps will you take to reduce Canada's reliance on foreign oil and will you commit to a goal of Canadian energy independence?

Jobs and Skills Training

Governments in Canada must work together to support strong labour markets, where all Canadians, including under-represented groups, can obtain the skills and opportunities necessary to be productive, engaged and equipped for the jobs of the future. This requires robust, equitable and flexible federal investments through provincial and territorial governments, so Canadians can access training and support regardless of where they live, along with assistance for workers and communities displaced by federal policy changes and economic and trade disruptions. Equitable federal funding in support of Indigenous education, training and employment is required.

Question 2: How will you work with provinces and territories to create jobs and enhance skills training for Canadians? What measures will you take to support Indigenous peoples and under-represented groups? What measures will you take to support workers, businesses, and communities adversely affected by federal policy decisions?

Immigration

Since its inception, Canada has always been recognized as a country of immigrants and to this day, Canada's immigrant share is the highest among G8 countries. Immigration plays a critical role in building an inclusive, diverse, and prosperous society. Increased federal funding for provincial and territorial settlement assistance is necessary to better support newcomers, including additional compensation to affected provinces for costs related to irregular migration and refugee claimants.

Question 3: Will you commit to foster greater economic immigration, by achieving a minimum target of 65% of annual admissions for economic immigrants? Will you commit to reasonable common standards for processing times for all categories of economic immigrants, whether they are selected federally or provincially? Will you add greater flexibility to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to meet the needs of small- and medium-sized enterprises who can demonstrate difficulty finding Canadian workers? What measures will you take to support provincial and territorial settlement assistance? Will the federal government recognize the specific requirements of provinces and territories in relation to immigration?

Healthcare Sustainability and Innovation

The sustainability of Canada's healthcare system depends on the federal government becoming a full funding partner, including through increasing the Canada Health Transfer. Provinces and territories have implemented innovative service delivery options to ensure their residents have access to timely, quality services consistent with the universal healthcare system. The federal government must respect provincial constitutional and territorial jurisdiction over health to ensure provinces and territories have the flexibility needed to deal with emerging issues while ensuring federal funding continues to flow. The federal government must also invest adequately in healthcare services and infrastructure in Indigenous communities and address critical determinants of health by ensuring safe, clean, accessible water and housing.

Question 4: Will you commit to returning to a full funding partnership in healthcare? As a starting point, will you increase funding through the Canada Health Transfer by an annual escalator of 5.2%, as recommended by the Conference Board of Canada? Will you ensure that any federal pharmacare program is developed in partnership with provinces and territories, respects the principles articulated by Premiers, and that any jurisdiction who wishes to can opt out unconditionally with full financial compensation? What is your financial commitment to improving health outcomes for Indigenous peoples?

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